



MICHIGAN

To: Honorable Members of the House Oversight, Reform, and Ethics Committee

From: Charles Owens, State Director

Date: September 13, 2011

RE: House Bill 4929 – Prohibit Collection of Union Dues by a Public School Employer

We are writing to you to ask for your support of House Bill 4929 that would prohibit a public school from collecting union dues for a labor organization.

Payroll deductions of union dues or political contributions should not be allowed by any public employer. To suggest that this issue be decided by collective bargaining is not realistic given the unique relationship between the employer and employee that exists in the public sector.

Governmental units, both state and local, are not effective in most collective bargaining venues on issues such as payroll deduction of union dues. This is because there is an inherent conflict of interest when many of the parties that are supposed to be representing the taxpayer are elected or appointed with the help of employer representatives such as organized labor.

It is the duty of the legislature to protect the taxpayer in this situation by determining the items that may be the subject of collective bargaining. Without this important check on union power, unsustainable public employee benefits and compensation will continue to threaten the financial integrity of our public institutions.

Again we ask you to support HB 4929.

Thank you for your support of small business.